
AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Long Essay Question 3

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Question 3: Long Essay Question, Enlightenment and Reform Movements

6 points

General Scoring Notes

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam essays should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.

During the eighteenth century, Enlightenment philosophers developed new ideas about individual rights and the role of governments.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform during the period circa 1750 to 1900.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A Thesis/Claim (0–1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn this point: - Are not historically defensible. - Only restate or rephrase the prompt. - Do not respond to the prompt. - Do not establish a line of reasoning. - Are overgeneralized.	Responses that earn this point: Provide a historically defensible thesis or claim about the extent to which Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform during the period circa 1750 to 1900. The thesis or claim must either provide some indication of the reason for making that claim OR establish categories of the argument.
	Examples that do not earn this point: Provide a restatement of the prompt <i>“Enlightenment ideas prompted many people to campaign for political and social reforms.”</i> Provide a historically defensible claim, but do not establish a line of reasoning <i>“The Enlightenment included new political ideas about natural rights.”</i> Provide a claim that is not historically defensible <i>“The Enlightenment idea of mercantilism was adopted by many political leaders.”</i>	Examples that earn this point: Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt <i>“Social reform movements were facilitated by the Enlightenment as can be seen from the abolition movement and its focus on natural rights.”</i> Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt with analytic categories <i>“Many nineteenth-century political movements—for example liberalism—incorporated key Enlightenment ideas, such as its emphasis on reason and tolerance and its distrust of organized religion, but other nineteenth-century political movements—for example socialism—rejected some of the ideas of the Enlightenment, such as the idea that private property was something that should be protected and preserved at all costs.”</i> Establish a line of reasoning <i>“Reform movements were based on Enlightenment ideas like using reason to make society more equal.”</i> [Minimally acceptable thesis/claim] <i>“Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change through the American Revolution and the French Revolution.”</i> [Minimally acceptable thesis/claim]
Additional Notes: - The thesis or claim must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion (which may not be limited to the first or last paragraphs). - The thesis or claim must identify a relevant development(s) in the period, although it is not required to encompass the entire period.		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row B Contextualization (0–1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn this point: - Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt. - Provide context that is not relevant to the prompt. - Provide a passing phrase or reference.	Responses that earn this point: Accurately describe a context relevant to Enlightenment ideas, political change, or social reform during the period circa 1750 to 1900.
	Examples that do not earn this point: Do not provide context relevant to the topic of the prompt <i>“New technology such as the telegraph helped governments better control their territories.”</i> Provide a passing phrase or reference <i>“Voltaire was an Enlightenment philosopher.”</i>	Examples of relevant context that earn this point include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided: - French Revolution and Atlantic Revolutions - Specific thinkers, such as Voltaire, Rousseau, Locke, Wollstonecraft - Classic liberalism, democratic ideals, expansion of suffrage - Scientific Revolution - Debates about women’s role in society - Non-Western societies and desire to modernize - Industrialization - Global capitalism - Socialism, communism, labor unions - Anti-slave trade and abolitionism movements, end of serfdom - Nationalism - Urbanization - Expansion of literacy, education Example of acceptable contextualization: <i>“Enlightenment philosophies focused on new ways of understanding and empiricist approaches that grew out of the Scientific Revolution and applied them to human relationships.”</i> <i>“Debates about women’s roles in society led to a movement to give women the right to vote.”</i> [Minimally acceptable contextualization]
Additional Notes: - The response must describe broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question that are relevant to the topic of the prompt. - To earn this point, the context provided must be more than a phrase or reference.		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row C Evidence (0–2 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Provides specific examples of at least two pieces of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.	2 points Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least two pieces of specific and relevant evidence.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn points: - Identify a single piece of evidence. - Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic of the prompt. - Provide evidence that is outside the time period or region specified in the prompt. - Repeat information that is specified in the prompt. Examples that do not earn points: Provide evidence that is outside the time period <i>“Movements that overthrew communist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR drew on ideas of individual rights.”</i>	Responses that earn 1 point: - Identify at least two specific historical examples relevant to Enlightenment ideas, political change, or social reform movements during the period circa 1750 to 1900. Examples of evidence that are specific and relevant include the following (two examples required): - Declaration of Independence, “Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen,” “Letter from Jamaica” - Philosophers such as Voltaire, Rousseau, John Locke - French Revolution and Atlantic Revolutions - Abolition of slavery - Abolition of serfdom - Socialism, communism, labor union movements - Tanzimat in the Ottoman Empire - Government reforms in Meiji Japan - Educational reforms, public primary education - Achievements of the feminists and suffragists Example of a statement that earns one point for evidence: <i>“The French Revolution abolished the monarchy and replaced it with an elected Chamber of Deputies but later went back to a monarchical government under Napoleon.”</i>	Responses that earn 2 points: - Use at least two specific historical examples to support an argument regarding the extent to which Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform during the period circa 1750 to 1900. Examples that successfully support an argument with evidence: <i>“The anti-slave trade movement in Britain in the early 1800s, as well as the abolitionist movement in the United States later in the century, both drew on Enlightenment ideas of natural rights.”</i> [Uses evidence to support an argument about Enlightenment ideas encouraging anti-slavery reform movements] <i>“Socialist movements that arose in the 19th-century Europe used Enlightenment ideas of equality and democracy to demand reforms such as expanded suffrage for the working class and government-provided social welfare for the poor.”</i> [Uses evidence to support an argument about Enlightenment ideas being adapted by socialist movements]
	Additional Notes: - Typically, statements credited as evidence will be more specific than statements credited as contextualization. - If a response has a multipart argument, then it can meet the threshold of two pieces of evidence by giving one example for one part of the argument and another example for a different part of the argument, but the total number of examples must still be at least two.		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row D Analysis and Reasoning Complex Understanding	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Uses historical reasoning [e.g., comparison, causation, continuity and change] to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.	2 points Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt through sophisticated argumentation and/or effective use of evidence.
(0–2 points)	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn points: - May include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument. - May assert the use of historical reasoning but does not use it to frame or structure an argument. Examples that do not earn points: Provide evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument <i>“The French Revolution had several phases.”</i>	Responses that earn 1 point: - Must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument about the extent to which Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform during the period 1750 to 1900. The reasoning might be uneven or imbalanced, or the evidence may be overly general or lacking specificity. Using a historical reasoning process to frame or structure an argument could include: - Explaining how democratic ideas from the Enlightenment inspired colonial subjects in Latin America to rebel against imperial government to gain independence and create new republics. - Explaining how Enlightenment ideas of natural rights and reason inspired women in multiple countries to lead reform movements pushing governments to give women the right to vote. Example of acceptable use of historical reasoning: <i>“The women’s suffrage movement was created by women who used Enlightenment ideas of natural</i>	Responses that earn 2 points: May demonstrate a complex understanding through sophisticated argumentation that is relevant to the prompt. This may be done in a variety of ways, such as: - Explaining multiple themes or perspectives to explore complexity or nuance; OR - Explaining multiple causes or effects, multiple similarities or differences, or multiple continuities or changes; OR - Explaining both cause and effect, both similarity and difference, or both continuity and change; OR - Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods or geographical areas. These connections should clearly relate to an argument that responds to the prompt. May demonstrate a complex understanding through effective use of evidence relevant to an argument that addresses the prompt. This may be done in a variety of ways that might include: - Explaining how multiple pieces of specific and relevant evidence [at least four] support a nuanced or complex argument that responds to the prompt; OR - Using evidence effectively to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of different perspectives relevant to the prompt. Demonstrating a complex understanding might include any of the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided: - Explaining that although the American Revolution was inspired by Enlightenment ideas of natural rights and democracy, the new nation created by that Revolution still did not grant civil rights to all its people, most significantly women and enslaved people. [Explains nuance by exploring multiple themes or perspectives] - Explaining that both the Latin American revolutions and the Haitian Revolution were inspired by Enlightenment ideas to push for independence from imperial states and for democratic government, but that the Haitian Revolution was much more radical in that it also involved a social revolution of poor, enslaved Black people against rich White landowners, whereas the racial component was less prevalent in the Latin American revolutions, which were mostly led by

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		<i>rights to claim that their exclusion from public life was unjust and to demand the right to political participation.”</i> [Explains a causal connection between Enlightenment ideas and their use by a movement for a political and social change]	European-descended creole elites. [Explains both similarities and differences] Explaining that Enlightenment ideas of individual freedom, democracy, and nationalism spread from Western societies to colonized societies and were often used in the 20th century by anti-colonial independence movements in places such as India. [Explains relevant and insightful connections between periods and regions]
	Additional Notes: - To earn the first point for analysis and reasoning, the response must use historical reasoning to structure a response to the prompt, although the reasoning might be uneven or imbalanced, or the evidence may be overly general or lacking in specificity. - This complex understanding must be part of the argument and may be demonstrated in any part of the response. - While it is not necessary for this complex understanding to be woven throughout the response, it must be more than merely a phrase or reference.		

The Enlightenment was a period of change and innovation that allowed for people to move past accepting what was dictated by the Church and by authoritative figures, and promoted the idea of challenging and questioning past knowledge. The movement was heavily prominent during the 18th century, with various figures such as John Locke and Montesquieu creating new ideas and ideologies that not only influenced governance, but impacted how people perceived their rights. With the influence of these new thoughts, various movements that would have never been instigated without the Enlightenment, began to occur, such as the American Revolution, the Haitian Revolution, and the women's rights and suffrage movement.

A major example of the Enlightenment influencing movements that sought for political change was the American Revolution. While the revolution was initially fought because of the Enlightenment ideals, a large portion of their documents were also heavily designed around the Enlightenment. This was the case because many of the founding fathers, having access to education that exposed them to the Enlightenment, had been profoundly influenced by the European movement. For example, the Declaration of Independence, the document that officially declared America's separation from Britain, utilized heavy tones of the Enlightenment when justifying their desire for separation. The writer, Thomas Jefferson, argued that Britain's rules infringed on the natural rights of the American people, a concept designed by Enlightenment philosopher John Locke that supported the idea that people have rights to life, liberty, and property. With this idea in mind, the US not only used it as a justification for revolution, but they utilized this ideology when creating their new, democratic government. The political changes that occurred during and after the American Revolution also aimed to eliminate the authoritative rule that Britain's king had, which ultimately led to the separation of powers, otherwise known as the creation of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. This concept was created by Montesquieu, who believed separating governing powers eliminates the idea of having one person with consolidated power.

Another movement that was heavily influenced by the Enlightenment was the Haitian Revolution, which occurred shortly after the American Revolution. The Haitian Revolution eventually began as a slave revolt, with slaves on Haiti uniting to fight against their oppressors. However, the revolt grew into a full revolution against France, with Touissant Louverture leading Haiti to victory. The revolution was heavily guided and influenced by other revolutions and Enlightenment ideals, with Louverture having been educated in many of the Enlightenment's ideals. Without the Enlightenment, the Haitian Revolution wouldn't have had the same guidance and driving factor. The revolution not only allowed for Haiti's independence from France, but it gave the people there freedom from enslavement. This movement not only heavily fought for political reform by separating from France, but it had heavy social reforms that allowed for the expression of natural rights for freed slaves, which a liberty that originally wasn't present for many until decades later.

Outside of revolutions, there were also a variety of movements that fought for social reform that were influenced by the Enlightenment, including the women's rights and suffrage movement. During the later years of this time period, women were inclined to fight for the right to vote, perceiving their lack of voting rights as an infringement of many Enlightenment ideals. Various figures such as Mary Wollstonecraft among others not only used direct examples of Enlightenment ideals to support the movement, but they openly criticized governments that were built upon Enlightenment ideals, highlighting the irony in them suppressing women's fights despite their governments having been built upon the Enlightenment. The women's rights movement also helped pave the way for civil rights movements, with the two movements often coordinating in order to bolster their power. Ultimately, various political and social changes that occurred across the globe would not have been possible without the guidance and influence of ideas proposed by Enlightenment philosophers. The

impacts of these philosophers were heavily significant, and traces of them can be perceived in a variety of movements and changes to this day.

The Enlightenment was created by many philosophers like Adam Smith and John Locke ideas and beliefs of freedoms/rights and how we should live our lives. John Locke created the term called natural right which are the rights every man is born with, life, liberty, and the pursuit of property. The Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and social reforms because it created many movements and rebellions in hope of freedom for many colonies or control countries during the period circa 1750 to 1900.

A way to show how the Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and social reforms is by the United States of America's constitution. The United States constitution was created as the laws and rights of the people of the United States. In the United States constitution it writes, "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Property". These ideas in the constitution come from the natural rights of the Enlightenment from John Locke. These ideas helped create building blocks for the United States to build off of that gave a sense of freedom to so many people. Another way to show how the Enlightenment encouraged political change was by the rebellion of colonies owned by many big power holding countries. Many of these colonies started to rebel during this time because they wanted to become an independent state and have freedom to choose what they wanted as a country. This evidence shows how the spread of Enlightenment ideas and beliefs created a spread of rebellion and search for freedom that is still being used today in modern life. We have countries and civil rights movements going all having a piece of the Enlightenment apart of it. To conclude the spread Enlightenment was a very big part of our history with freedom and creation of many countries here in the world today that still encouraged political change and social reforms.

Before the circa 1750 to 1900, many small developing countries and cultures were subjects of colonialism and imperialism. However all of this would change once the Enlightenment hit and philosophies began reaching people subject to these kinds of powers. **Enlightenment ideas such as social darwinism and marxism led to the French Revolution (1896) and the Haitian revolution (1888).**

The French Revolution was a difficult and triumph-full reovlution where they faced many hardships. They were inspired by these philosophies especially after the 35 Theses. People realized the role of governments and the affect that had on their culture, identity, and their wellbeing way of life, so they decided to have a social reform and

The Haitian revolution was inspired by social darwinism and natural rights. Being under imperialist countries and expericing strict rules was not a way the hatian people wanted to live, so wants they became inspired by the french reovlution and natural rights, they rebelled against their imperialist powers and successfully won, becoming an independent state which is a political change.

In conclusion, as the Enlightenment spread globally, it impacted and inspired many oppressed nations to revolt and initiate social and political reforms.

Long Essay Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on [AP Central](#).

Sample: 3A

Thesis Score: 1

Contextualization Score: 1

Evidence Score: 2

Analysis and Reasoning Score: 2

Total Score: 6

Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensible claim about how Enlightenment ideas facilitated political revolutions and social reform. The thesis, found in the first paragraph, states, “With the influence of these new thoughts, various movements that would have never been instigated without the Enlightenment, began to occur, such as the American Revolution, the Haitian Revolution, and the women’s rights and suffrage movement.”

Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. In the first paragraph, the response provides context by discussing a change in what constituted authoritative knowledge. The response states, “The Enlightenment was a period of change and innovation that allowed for people to move past accepting what was dictated by the Church and by authoritative figures, and promoted the idea of challenging and questioning past knowledge.” The response provides further context by discussing the ideas of Locke and Montesquieu.

Evidence (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 1 point for using evidence. The response provides multiple pieces of accurate evidence relevant to the Enlightenment encouraging political change by using The Declaration of Independence, Locke’s natural rights and Montesquieu’s separation of powers, Jefferson and the American Revolution, and L’Ouverture and the Haitian Revolution. The response also provides accurate evidence relevant to the Enlightenment encouraging social reform by using Wollstonecraft and the women’s rights movement.

Long Essay Question 3 (continued)

The response earned 1 point for supporting an argument with evidence. The response supports the argument in the second paragraph that, “A major example of the Enlightenment influencing movements that sought for political change was the American Revolution” with the post-revolutionary United States government, which reflected Montesquieu’s ideas. The response provides another piece of evidence supporting the same argument with the discussion of Jefferson, arguing that “Britain’s rules infringed on the natural rights of the American people, a concept designed by Enlightenment philosopher John Locke that supported the idea that people have rights to life, liberty, and property.” The response supports the argument in the third paragraph that “Another movement that was heavily influenced by the Enlightenment was the Haitian Revolution, which occurred shortly after the American Revolution” with an explanation of L’Ouverture’s liberation of Haiti and the end of slavery.

Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 1 point for historical reasoning. The response explains the Enlightenment’s effects on the American Revolution and the creation of a democratic government as well as the women’s suffrage movement. In addition, in the third paragraph, the response discusses the Haitian Revolution and its unique ability to abolish slavery.

The response earned 1 point for complex understanding. The response provides a nuanced discussion qualifying its argument regarding the Enlightenment encouraging political change. The response discusses how the Enlightenment was used by the founding fathers not only to justify the American Revolution, but also to set up their new state. The response also discusses how the Haitian Revolution changed from a slave revolt to a broader movement inspired by Enlightenment ideas. The response also includes multiple examples of causation related to movements for women’s rights and the American and Haitian Revolutions, and comparisons of the American and Haitian Revolutions.

Sample: 3B

Thesis Score: 1

Contextualization Score: 1

Evidence Score: 2

Analysis and Reasoning Score: 0

Total Score: 4

Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensive claim in the first paragraph that is repeated near the end of the response. The response states that rebellions for freedom were initiated because of ideas developed during the Enlightenment.

Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization by referencing concepts developed during the Enlightenment. In the first paragraph the response states, “The Enlightenment was created by many philosophers like Adam Smith and John Locke ideas and beliefs of freedoms/rights and how we should live our lives. John Locke created the term called natural right which are the rights every man is born with.”

Long Essay Question 3 (continued)**Evidence (0–2 points): 2**

The response earned 1 point for using evidence. The response provides accurate evidence in the second paragraph relevant to the Enlightenment encouraging political change and social reform such as the U.S. Constitution, John Locke, and natural rights.

The response earned 1 point for supporting an argument with evidence. In the second paragraph the response uses the U.S. Constitution and John Locke’s concept of natural rights to support the argument that Enlightenment ideas encouraged movements for political change and social reforms.

Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning. The response attempts to structure the second paragraph around the claim that “Another way to show how the Enlightenment encouraged political change was by the rebellion of colonies owned by many big power holding countries,” but does not explain any connection between rebellion and Enlightenment ideas.

The response did not earn the point for complex understanding. There was no attempt to demonstrate a complex understanding of how the Enlightenment encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform.

Sample: 3C**Thesis Score: 1****Contextualization Score: 0****Evidence Score: 1****Analysis and Reasoning Score: 0****Total Score: 2****Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1**

The response earned 1 point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensible claim about how the global spread of Enlightenment ideas inspired revolutions and prompted attempts at reform. In the last paragraph the response states, “as the Enlightenment spread globally, it impacted and inspired many oppressed nations to revolt and initiate social and political reforms.” The thesis attempt in the opening paragraph is historically inaccurate.

Contextualization (0–1 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for contextualization. The response attempts to provide context in the first paragraph, but is too vague: “Before the circa 1750 to 1900, many small developing countries and cultures were subjects of colonialism and imperialism. However all of this would change once the Enlightenment hit and philosophies began reaching people subject to these kinds of powers.”

Long Essay Question 3 (continued)**Evidence (0–2 points): 1**

The response earned 1 point for using evidence. The response provides accurate evidence relevant to the Enlightenment encouraging political change and/or social reform such as natural rights leading to the Haitian Revolution and the independent state created by the Haitian Revolution. The discussion of the French Revolution in the second paragraph does not count as evidence as it is not related to the Enlightenment.

The response did not earn the point for supporting an argument with evidence. The response only uses one piece of evidence to support an argument. In the third paragraph, the response supports the argument that “Being under imperialist countries and experiencing strict rules was not a way the Haitian people wanted to live, so wants they became inspired by the French Revolution and natural rights, they rebelled against their imperialist powers and successfully won, becoming an independent state which is a political change” with the evidence of the Haitian Revolution. The French Revolution in the second paragraph is not used to support an argument. The claim that the Haitian Revolution was influenced by Social Darwinism is a read-through error.

Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning. The response did not use comparison, causation, or continuity and change to frame or structure an argument.

The response did not earn the point for complex understanding. There was no attempt to demonstrate a complex understanding of how the Enlightenment encouraged movements for political change and/or social reform.